

East Hampton veteran receives new home



BY ROBERT BRODSKY
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A Marine Corps veteran, who has been living with his teenage son in a small basement apartment in East Hampton, will be able to stay in his hometown in a new home built by Habitat for Humanity of Long Island.

Business, town and community leaders cut the ribbon Monday on the house on Thomas Avenue that is now home to Matt Charron and his son, Jackson Charron.

"I don't really have the words. It's great that we get to stay here [in East Hampton]," said Matt Charron, a single father who has worked as a digital imaging specialist for The East Hampton Star newspaper since 2009. "There were a lot of ups and downs and I wasn't 100% sure this was going to happen and that I was going to be able to stay here."

Father and son currently share a one-bedroom apartment in bunk beds, officials said. Matt Charron has refused to leave the town he grew up in because he wants his son to graduate from East Hampton High School.

The Charrons will be required to put in 300 hours of "sweat equity," helping to build houses for others in the program. They must also go through financial preparation classes and volunteer for community service.

Matt Charron will sign a 30-year mortgage with 2% interest on the new home, which was built by Ben Krupinski Builder of East Hampton, with Habitat for Humanity of Long Island holding a second mortgage.

"The homeownership program is built on giving a hand up, which means it's very challenging," said Diane Manders, director of homeowner ser-

vices for Habitat for Humanity of Long Island. "Our homes are not free. They require hundreds of hours of sweat equity."

The land was donated by East Hampton, said Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc.

"It's so important to keep people in our community," Van Scoyoc said.

Matt Charron said many other veterans in the region are also in need of assistance.

"There's more need than just me but to bring attention to it is important," he said.

Habitat for Humanity of Long Island, which has now built 236 new homes in the region, is an affiliate of the Atlanta-based Habitat for Humanity International. The group works to empower lower-income families to achieve their homeownership dreams through its affordable homeownership program.

With John Roca

Marine Corps veteran Matt Charron, right, and his son, Jackson, will live in a home built by Habitat for Humanity of Long Island.

LONG ISLAND / SUFFOLK

Habitat for Humanity builds home in East Hampton for Marine veteran



Marine veteran Matthew Charron, right, is presented with a wooden flag by Ray Harden, principal owner of Ben Krupinski Builder, which built a Habitat for Humanity home in East Hampton for Charron and his son. Credit: John Roca

James Lane

— POST —

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www.jameslanepost.com

Habitat For Humanity Raised Walls On Home In East Hampton For Veteran & Son

by JAMES LANE POST



Courtesy of Habitat for Humanity of Long Island | Suzee Foster

USMC veteran Matt and his son Jackson watch the raising of the front wall of their new home in East Hampton.

On Monday, October 31, Habitat for Humanity of Long Island, with house sponsor PSEG LI, and build sponsor **Ben Krupinski Builder**, raised the walls on a new affordable home in East Hampton for Matt, a single father and U.S. Marine Corps veteran and his son, Jackson.

The home will be built, in approximately three weeks, in this year's Veteran Blitz Build with veteran supporters from Team Rubicon and Southwire, **Ben Krupinski Builder** which is overseeing construction as the build sponsor with an array of local sub-contractors, and PSEG Long Island, the home sponsor.

Ray Harden of Ben Krupinski Builder, with fellow principal Stratton Schellinger, grew up in the area and are donating their company's time and expertise to oversee the home's construction.



Louis DeBrino of PSEG LI, the House Sponsor; Matt, USMC veteran and new homeowner; Habitat for Humanity CEO Lee Silberman; and Ray Harden of Ben Krupinski Builder, the Build Sponsor. Photo courtesy of Habitat for Humanity of Long Island | Suzee Foster

“When I heard the new Habitat house would be for a local veteran, I said, ‘We’re in.’ We are proud of Matt’s service to our country and that he is an upstanding member of our community. Building this house means he can continue to afford to live and work in the Town of East Hampton, where he grew up, and to see his son grow up here too. We appreciate the hard work of all who are working with us and our working alongside the Habitat team to make this happen,” said Harden

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Habitat family,” said Matt, who for the past 12 years has worked for The East Hampton Star. “Raising my son alone has been challenging in a small, crowded apartment. To actually help build our own house will be such a solid foundation for us and partnering with Habitat and being chosen for a house is a life-changing event.”



The rear wall of the home going up. Photo courtesy of Habitat for Humanity of Long Island | Suzee Foster

The homeowner will fulfill 300 hours of sweat equity, helping to build his home and houses for other families in the program. In addition, they will go through financial preparation classes and volunteer for community service. Each homeowner will sign a 30-year mortgage with two percent interest, with Habitat for Humanity of Long Island holding a second mortgage.

“Partnering with Habitat Long Island will enable us to stay in the same community and put down roots,” said Matt. “I look forward to getting the dog my son has been wanting for so long. Since he is an only child, a puppy will allow him to have someone to care for and keep him company.”



Ray Harden of Ben Krupinski Builder, USMC veteran Matt and his son Jackson. Photo courtesy of Habitat for Humanity of Long Island | Suzee Foster

Ben Krupinski Builder will build this home with help from H.B. Millwork, Ned Steven Gutter Cleaning, Palermo Paving, Quackenbush Cesspools, Window World, and other subcontractors in approximately three weeks.

Habitat for Humanity of Long Island Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director Lee Silberman said, “We are grateful to each sponsor, supporter and volunteer helping to make this new home a reality. The Veterans Blitz Build program – which lets us build unique partnerships with builders, sponsors, and volunteer groups – accelerates completion of new-build projects like this one. This will be our 236th home on Long Island – we hope to have the opportunity to partner with other veterans in the future.”

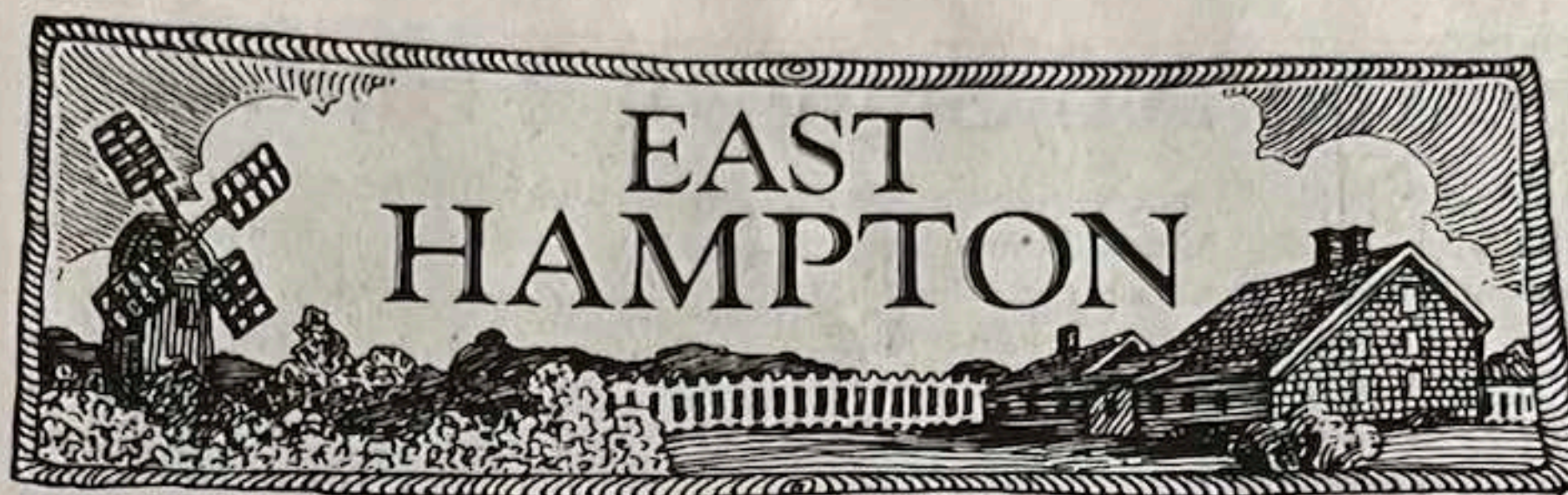
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THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

SHINES FOR ALL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022

The East Hampton Star, December 15, 2022



On Monday, Habitat for Humanity of Long Island dedicated a newly built house in East Hampton to Matt Charron, center, and his son, Jackson. It was built in just six weeks thanks in part to Habitat's partnership with professionals like Ray Harden of Ben Krupinski Builder, left, who donated their time and expertise to the effort.

Durell Godfrey

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The Festival of Lights

day at 5, BookHampton will be the spot for Hanukkah stories, songs, and the gift of a Hanukkah book for children. The festivities will move to the Clubhouse

Menorah Parade through the streets of East Hampton. Vehicles will leave from the Chabad House at 13 Woods Lane at 3 p.m. and arrive at the menorah lighting at Hook Mill at 3:30. Those who want a cartop menorah for the occasion can reserve one online at jewish-hamptons.com/dreidel.

On Wednesday at Chabad of the Hamptons children can tie-dye beanies and enjoy doughnuts and games of dreidel from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The cost is \$15 per child. Looking ahead to Dec. 25, Chabad will mark the final night of Hanukkah with a party at 4:30 p.m. including live music by Tali Yess, crafts for children, a Chinese dinner, latkes, and doughnuts. Admission is free but reservations are requested at the web address listed above.

The East Hampton Village Board will meet tomorrow at 11 a.m. at the Emergency Services Building on Cedar Street.

Clothing Drive

The East Hampton Library is collecting coats and other warm winter apparel for families in need from now through Feb. 25. Gently used coats, hats, gloves and scarves in children's and adult sizes can be dropped off at the library's reference desk. Those who need this winter clothing can browse through the selection in the library's downstairs Baldwin Room.

On Saturday at 6 p.m. the library will screen a reading by Dick Bruce of a two-act play "Sometime Child," first performed at LTV Studios in Wainscott. When the pandemic hit, it ran in the theater for the New City in March.

The Dickens Carolers